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BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

Vol.4 No.2 February, 1941.

Officers and executive for 1940-41.

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Vice President	- Miss Ruth E. Cameron
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EXECUTIVE MEETINGS A meeting of the executive of the B.C.L.A. was held in the New Westminster Public Library on January 17th, 1941. All were present.

The President gave an outline to date of the campaign for the removal of the war tax on books insofar as libraries are concerned. Letters were read from all parts of Canada from librarians, newspapermen and members of Parliament, showing a most favorable response and a promise to use their influence when the budget discussion comes up in Parliament. It was agreed that nothing further could be done until then.

The annual meeting for 1941 was discussed. It was suggested that the question of the organization of a Canadian Library Association be taken as the central topic of the convention, and that the possibility of a visit to the West by Dr. Sanderson be looked into. It was agreed that the University of British Columbia would be a satisfactory place at which to hold the convention.

The President recommended that the reorganization of A.L.A. be discussed at the Annual Meeting.

A.L.A. The new A.L.A. constitution in Article V. provides for the formation of state, provincial or territorial chapters on the written request of ten members. These chapters may admit members who are not members of A.L.A. but representation on the A.L.A. council is only possible with a minimum of fifty A.L.A. members in the local chapter.

Should B.C.L.A. consider affiliating with A.L.A. as a chapter? How would this affect our relations with P.N.L.A. and a possible C.L.A.?

Serving as a special A.L.A. committee of Canadian Library Consultants are: Charles R. Sanderson, chairman, librarian, Toronto Public Library; Nora Bateson, Regional Libraries Commission, Halifax, N.S.; Alexander Calhoun, librarian, Calgary Public Library; Gerhard Lomer, librarian, McGill University Libraries, Montreal; and E.S. Robinson, librarian, Vancouver Public Library.

CANADIAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

On November 25, 1940, Miss Margaret S. Gill, President of the Ottawa Library Association, sent out a questionnaire to librarians and library associations across Canada on the desirability of forming a Canadian Library Association.

A special meeting of B.C.L.A. was not called, partly on account of expense and partly because it was thought that freer discussion would develop in the smaller groups, and that the different points of view brought out might be developed and reported on in the last Bulletin in preparation for a thorough discussion at the 1941 convention after which a full report would be sent.

In Victoria Miss Clay called a joint luncheon meeting of the Victoria Public Library and Provincial Library; the letter was discussed in a staff meeting at the University Library and at a meeting of the Staff Association of the Vancouver Public Library. The letter was also brought up at the monthly meeting of Vancouver school librarians, but no action was taken.

From the reports of the various meetings it would seem that librarians in British Columbia are in favor of some national organization but are not sure what form it should take. This seems to be true all across the country, according to the mimeographed digest of replies to the questionnaire.

Miss Gill mentions in her second circular that the appointment of the A.L.A. Committee of Canadian Library Consultants was not anticipated when the questionnaire was sent out. One of the duties of this Committee is "if they see fit, to recommend to the Council the establishment of a permanent Canadian advisory committee or board."

Since there is a possibility that this matter may be dealt with more fully at A.L.A. in June, it seemed wise to plan to have it discussed at the annual conference which would have to be held in the Spring. The Executive invited Mr. C.S. Sanderson, librarian of the Toronto Public Library, to address us on the subject at that time. If he should speak at library associations across Canada on this trip it might be well worthwhile.

As a conference of librarians arranged by the Canadian Legion Educational Services was being held in Ottawa in January and would be attended by librarians from all parts of Canada, B.C. being represented by Mr. E.S. Robinson, of the Vancouver Public Library, another meeting was to be held at the same time to discuss the proposed Canadian Library Association.

At an informal meeting with several members of the B.C.L.A. executive Mr. Robinson was requested to urge Mr. Sanderson to come West for the Spring meeting

of B.C.L.A. and to insist that the form of organization should not be settled until it has been discussed by the various library associations in open conference, preferably before A.L.A. meets in June.

FRASER VALLEY UNION LIBRARY

Last December the voters of Langley Municipality went to the polling booths and voted by a considerable majority to withdraw from the Fraser Valley Union Library District. In this election there was cast, however, one of the smallest votes in the history of the district - little more than one-third of the registered voters having cast a ballot.

The reason for this was that the Reeve and all the Councillors, except one, were returned to office by acclamation. There being no contest, most of the people were uninterested in the elections and didn't bother to turn out to vote on such an unexciting thing as library service.

The loyal supporters of the library weren't large enough in number to defeat those who, for one reason or another, regarded the library with disfavor. One of the chief causes of dissatisfaction was the way in which the library tax was collected by the Municipal Council, something that was beyond the control of the Board of management of the Fraser Valley Union Library. Then there are always those who object to frills, and to anything that causes taxes to rise, and those who object to paying for what they themselves don't use.

Although the electorate generally would probably have voted in favor of the library had there been a lively contest for the Reeveship, as it was, they were apathetic and the library question was decided by a minority of the voters.

This year the story was repeated. By a vote of 569 to 395 the voters of Langley Municipality said "No" when asked if they favored rejoining the Fraser Valley Union Library. This time again, the Reeve and Councillors, all but one, were re-elected by acclamation, and again the only other question before the people was the library question and this time less than a third of the voters troubled to vote.

As the editor of the "Langley Advance" put it: ".....and so we say good-bye library until some future date when local residents show more inclination to the reading habit."

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

A free public symposium on "The Fall of France" was held at three o'clock December 8th at the First Unitarian Church. It was sponsored by the Adult Education Committee of the Vancouver Public Library. Prof. F.H. Soward was the main speaker and he was questioned by Mr. William Steward, President, Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 28; Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Librarian, University of British Columbia; and Rev. S.T. Pagesmith, of the Unitarian Church. The lecture and discussion were excellent. A record crowd attended; the platform and aisles were filled with chairs and standing room at the back was crowded to the doors.

The Adult Education Committee of the Vancouver Public Library donated fifty dollars to the Patriotic Services Drive, earmarked for the Red Cross. They also gave twenty-five dollars to the Red Cross Unit of the Vancouver Public Library Staff Association for wool.

On November 1st the Vancouver Public Library opened a station for the circulation of children's books in the old municipal hall in Kerrisdale. It is open two afternoons a week, and so far has registered 735 new borrowers. With a book collection of 1,264 there were 7,171 circulations during the first three months of operations.

VICTORIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1941 is likely to prove a very busy time for the Victoria Public Library. On January 2nd library facilities were made available to the residents of the Municipality of Saanich who had been deprived of this service since the former contract with the Library Board was severed by Saanich in April of 1932. After a long struggle on the part of residents desirous of enjoying library privileges, a library plebiscite was granted in December, 1940, when a very favorable majority voted to resume the contract for service.

The immediate response has been so enthusiastic and so many people have expressed their appreciation at being able to enjoy the use of the library once more that the sudden increase in the amount of work has seemed well worth while.

To date 1511 people have registered, and on Saturday, January 25th the total number of books circulated was 2,542.

WAR AND THE LIBRARY

The first Annual report of the War service library of Greater Vancouver shows that the work was commenced in February and that twenty stations were served with 4,559 books. Besides this a pool of catalogued books is waiting on call; during the early part of January 500 books were prepared for two new stations.

On the ninth and tenth of October Miss Julia Stockett visited stations in and around Prince Rupert to study ways in which the work of the War service libraries could be improved.

PERSONAL NOTES

Green: Miss Edith Green, Head of the Circulation Department of the Victoria Public Library, resigned in January and has left for Montreal where she will take the training course for nurses at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Hutcheson: Miss Amy Hutcheson who was formerly custodian of the Chilliwack branch of the Fraser Valley Union Library, and for the last two years on the staff of the Hamilton Public Library in the Boys' and Girls' Department, has rejoined the staff of the Fraser Valley Union Library, having been appointed Children's Librarian in September to take the place of Miss Jean Garratt, who resigned on account of ill health.

Lort: The wedding was announced in December of Miss Faith Elizabeth Elm, formerly librarian at Medford Junior High School, Oregon, to Mr. John Lort, Public Documents Assistant in the Provincial Library, Victoria.

Matthison: Mr. A.A. Matthison was retired from the staff of the New Westminster Public Library on December 31st, 1940, after twelve years of faithful service. He was presented with a leather writing case by the staff, whose good wishes follow him in his retirement.

Porter: Miss Jean Porter has been appointed Acting Head of the Circulation Department of the Victoria Public Library.

MacRae: Mr. Lachlan F. MacRae joined the staff of the New Westminster Public Library at the beginning of the year. Mr. MacRae is well-known to the library profession in this Province, having attended the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington. During the past year he was ranking assistant in the Business-Technical Reference Department of the Library Association of Portland, Oregon.

Stewart: The appointment was made at the first of the year of Miss Edith M. Stewart as assistant in charge of the Travelling Libraries of the Public Library Commission in Victoria, succeeding Mrs. H. Foster, who had served this department faithfully for ten years. Besides extensive study in Canada, the United States, and Europe, Miss Stewart has had wide experience in teaching and library work in Canada and the Orient, providing a valuable background in serving readers in the 150 communities and 200 schools which receive travelling libraries from the capital of this cosmopolitan Province.